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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/923,440	08/08/2001	Hideki Matsunaga	110331	9076
25944	7590	04/07/2004	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			LY, ANH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2172	
DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/923,440

Applicant(s)

MATSUNAGA, HIDEKI

Examiner

Anh Ly

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is response to Applicant's Amendment filed on 02/17/2004.
2. Claims 1-18 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,412,070 issued to Van Dyke et al. (hereinafter Van Dyke) in view of US Patent No. 6,275,825 issued to Kobayashi et al. (hereinafter Kobayashi).

With respect to claim 1, Van Dyke discloses setting an access right in association with the retrieval condition (a particular access right to a corresponding object to be retrieved: col. 6, lines 57-67 and see fig. 5; also see col. 8, lines 55-67);

setting an identifier for identifying the object in association with the retrieval condition (an unique identifier that identifies the object to which the access control entry applies: col. 6, lines 45-56 and col. 8, lines 26-38);

and performing access control for an object matching the retrieval condition on the basis of the access right (col. 2, lines 63-67, col. 5, lines 37-67 and col. 6, lines 4-67; also see abstract).

Van Dyke discloses extending access control of system objects, maintaining control access rights in a computing environment. The system allow an application to operate on a requested object and to retrieve the security descriptor by operating system to examine the access control list stored within the retrieved security descriptor and the security ID or security descriptor is comparing or matching with identifier for identifying the object (see col. 8, lines 55-67). Van Dyke does not explicitly teach defining a retrieval condition for retrieving an object.

However, Kobayashi discloses using SQL or SELECT statement to retrieve, to set or change a retrieved stored object with the access right (col. 1, lines 15-35 and lines 58-67 and col. 2, lines 1-20 and col. 4, lines 20-41).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Van Dyke with the teachings of Kobayashi so as to retrieval a stored object in the system with the condition based on the access right of the user (Kobayashi - col. 2, lines 1-14 and col. 4, lines 8-41). The motivation being to control the requested object based on the defined control access rights (Van Dyke – col. 8, lines 55-67 and col. 9, lines 1-10).

With respect to claim 2, Van Dyke discloses performing a check, when a request for access to an object occurs, to see whether the object meets the retrieval condition (col. 9, lines 3-48); and controlling access to the access-requested object on the basis of the access right that has been set in association with the retrieval condition (col. 5, lines 37-67 and col. 6, lines 1-67).

With respect to claims 3-4, Van Dyke discloses performing a check, when a request for access to an object occurs, to see whether the identifier of the object has been set in association with the retrieval condition; and controlling access to the access-requested object on the basis of the access right that has been set in association with the retrieval condition if a result of the check indicates that the identifier of the access-requested object has been set in association with the retrieval condition; and wherein the association between the retrieval condition and the identifier is changed according to need when addition, modification, or deletion of the object identified by the identifier is made (unique identifier for an object: col. 5, lines 50-67 and col. 6, lines 45-56 and see fig. 3 and 4; read, write delete, modify or update: col. 2, lines 2-18).

With respect to claims 5-9, Van Dyke discloses the step of performing access control, if the access-requested object matches a plurality of retrieval conditions, on the basis of OR of the matched retrieval conditions; performing access control, if the access-requested object matches a plurality of retrieval conditions, on the basis of AND of the matched retrieval conditions; wherein the object is stored with attribute data, and the retrieval condition aims to retrieve the object on the basis of the attribute data;

wherein the object is stored with attribute data and a method for referring to an entity of the object, and the retrieval condition aims to retrieve the object on the basis of the attribute data and the entity of the object referred to by the method; and wherein the access right is a specification about a user and an access type allowed to access the object (perform access control: col. 5, lines 37-49, col. 6, lines 12-24 and col. 9, lines 3-30; access rights: col. 5, lines 37-67 and col. 6, lines 25-67; see fig. 4, fig. 6 and fig. 7).

Claim 10 is essentially the same as claim 1 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 1 hereinabove.

Claim 11 is essentially the same as claim 2 except that it is directed to a system rather than a method, and is rejected for the same reason as applied to the claim 2 hereinabove.

Claims 12-13 are essentially the same as claims 3-4 except that they are directed to a system rather than a method, and are rejected for the same reason as applied to the claims 12-13 hereinabove.

Claims 14-18 are essentially the same as claims 5-9 except that they are directed to a system rather than a method, and are rejected for the same reason as applied to the claims 5-9 hereinabove.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh Ly whose telephone number is 703 306-4527 or via E-Mail: ANH.LY@USPTO.GOV. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene, can be reached on 703 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703 746-7239.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:


Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks


Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: Central Office (703) 872-9306 (Central Official Fax Number)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Fourth Floor (receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-6606 or 703 305-3900.

ANH LY 
MAR. 23rd, 2004


JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER